Dewan's reply.—Impracticable. A law of this kind can be easily evaded and you will never get loans at such reduced rates of interest.

Subject No. 137.
Agricultural Loans Act.

Summary of discussion.—The existing Land Improvement Loans Regulation has been of nominal benefit. A better system of lending money to poor raiyats and Inamdars should be adopted by introducing the Agricultural Loans Act. There are very few wealthy persons who lend money to poor people on easy terms. There ought to be no enquiry as to the purpose for which a loan is required. It should be sufficient if adequate security be given. Private individuals may be forthcoming to establish Agricultural Banks if Government would help.

Dewan's reply.—The subject has been much considered. Government are willing to give help. But the question is how loans not repaid at stipulated time can be recovered. We have difficulty in collecting some arrears of revenue, and where we find these irrecoverable we remit them. This cannot be done in the case of Bank Loans. A practicable plan would probably be for private individuals to come forward and agree to lend at a declared rate of interest. Government may lend such individuals some money at a rate of interest sufficiently low to allow of a fair margin of profit. These individuals should be competent men of business with large capital and capable of furnishing security sufficient to cover the loan which Government would give.

Subject No. 138.
Modification of the rules regarding advances for Irrigation Wells.

Summary of discussion.—One of the conditions on which money is lent by Government for the construction of Wells or Saguvali Kattes is that the work shall be completed within a specified period of time. It often happens that the work is not completed within the stipulated period and for this reason though it is due to causes beyond the Raiyat's control and though the Raiyat has spent on the work more than what he borrowed from Government, he is called upon to refund the advance. This is hard. Government should either lend more money to allow of the work being completed or cancel the condition regarding refund of the loan. The probable cost of repairing or constructing a well should be more liberally estimated than at present, the difficulty in procuring labour, &c., being taken into consideration. The period for the completion of such work should be extended to two or three years according to the circumstances of each case. If the work requires more money than the original estimate, an additional loan should be granted by Government.

[NOTE.—The Deputy Commissioner remarked that the rates prevailing in the Public Works Department were generally the rates adopted and were in most cases liberal enough. He was in favour of an extension of period and had recently addressed Government on the subject, suggesting a slight